than any country in a single year in the world. Overall performance of RNTCP has been excellent with cure/treatment completion rate consistently above 85% and death rate reduced to less than 5%. To increase accessibility of the masses to the facilities provided under the Programme, special emphasis is laid on the IEC activities, involvement of NGOs, private sector and medical colleges in the revised strategy.

New Study on the World Bank Report on Maternal Mortality

1255. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently released World Bank Study, 'Country Strategy for India' has raised doubts about the reliability of Maternal Mortality Rates (MMR) arrived at by the Department of Family Welfare, Government of India;

(b) if so, whether the Department has since initiated a new study and survey by experts to re-assess the extent of maternal mortality in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The World Bank Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) document of 2004 states that based on the existing data, the Meternal Mortality Rate (MMR) has worsened. However, the document, which is two and half years old, admits that there are problems with the data in some of the largest States raising question regarding MMR estimate at the national level. The report was based on the data available at that point of time when the country assistance strategy document was being prepared by the World Bank. Maternal Mortality Ratio is estimated by the Office of the Registrar General of India.

Recently the Registrar General of India has released fresh estimates based on more robust methodology. According to this the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has declined from 407 (SRS: 1998) to 301 (SRS: 2001-03) per 100,000 live births.